

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant comprising a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a DRO2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and including a DoF-type zinc finger domain, wherein said transgenic plant has increased drought tolerance to control plants.
2. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 1 wherein the transformation vector comprises a constitutive promoter that controls expression of the DRO2 polypeptide.
3. (Previously Presented) A method of producing increased drought tolerance in a plant, said method comprising:
 - a) introducing into plant cells a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a DRO2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 to produce transformed cells, and
 - b) growing the transformed cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said nucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased drought tolerance as compared to a non-transgenic control plant.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3 wherein a DRO2 polypeptide is over-expressed in the transgenic plant as compared to a non-transgenic control plant.
5. (Original) A plant obtained by a method of Claim 3.
6. (Previously Presented) A recombinant plant part obtained from a plant according to Claim 5.
7. (Previously Presented) A method of producing increased drought tolerance in a plant, said method comprising:
 - a) introducing into plant cells a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence

that encodes a DRO2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 to produce transformed cells, and

b) growing the transformed cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said nucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased drought tolerance as compared to a non-transgenic control plant.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein a DRO2 polypeptide is over-expressed in the transgenic plant as compared to a non-transgenic control plant.

9. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant produced by the method of Claim 7.

10. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 9 wherein the transformation vector comprises a constitutive promoter that controls expression of the DRO2 polypeptide.

11. (Previously Presented) A recombinant plant part obtained from a plant according to Claim 9.

12. (New) A method of producing increased drought tolerance in a plant, said method comprising:

a) introducing into plant cells a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a DRO2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and including a Dof-type zinc finger domain, to produce transformed cells, and

b) growing the transformed cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said nucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased drought tolerance as compared to a non-transgenic control plant.

13. (New) The method of Claim 12 wherein a DRO2 polypeptide is over-expressed in the transgenic plant as compared to a non-transgenic control plant.

14. (New) A plant obtained by a method of Claim 12.

15. (New) A recombinant plant part obtained from a plant according to Claim 14.